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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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APPLICANTS: Madnick et al.

SERIAL NO.: 08/657,750   GROUP NO.: 2783

FILING DATE: May 30, 1996   EXAMINER: Davis, W.

TITLE: QUERYING HETEROGENEOUS DATA SOURCES DISTRIBUTED OVER A NETWORK USING CONTEXT INTERCHANGE

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

This Preliminary Amendment follows the filing of a Continued Prosecution Application Request by Applicants on December 15, 1998. Applicants believe that no fee is due with this paper. Please amend the application identified above as follows.

In the Claims:

1.   (Amended)   A system for querying heterogeneous data sources distributed over a network, said system comprising:

a plurality of heterogeneous data sources, each of which includes local information relating to a first semantic data context associated with the heterogeneous data source;

a request translator associated with each requestor, said request translator receiving a request having a second semantic data context and comparing said first semantic data context and said second semantic data context to determine if a conflict between those contexts exists, said request translator translating the request, responsive to the conflict determination, [for translating a request having an associated semantic data context] into a query having at least [a second] one semantic data context associated with at least one of the heterogeneous data sources; and

a data translator which translates received data from the semantic data contexts associated with the heterogeneous data sources into the semantic data context associated with the request.